



State of Utah

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May 5, 2022

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Heather Talley

SUBJECT: 2022 Upland Game and Wild Turkey Recommendations

### **Summary of Recommended Changes:**

#### **Upland game management plan (see attached for complete plan)**

#### **Fall Wild Turkey Recommendation**

- Currently, an individual can purchase three either sex permits available for turkeys in the fall. The fall hunt was implemented in 2014 as another tool to address nuisance and depredation. Since the goal of these hunts is to decrease populations in urban and depredation areas, we hoped to harvest more mostly females. However, we have noticed that a higher proportion of male turkeys are taken during the fall than was anticipated, and we would rather leave toms for the spring hunt.
- Therefore, we are recommending to issue two beardless permits and one Hunter's Choice or either sex permit in the fall. We realize that there will be some take of jakes or juvenile males in the harvest of beardless birds, but omitting toms or bearded birds from the harvest to a greater extent will result in a higher harvest of females, which is the goal. And this will leave more adult males for the spring hunt.

#### **Air Rifle Recommendation**

- During the 2022 legislative session, the Utah Wildlife Board was directed to designate species that may be hunted with air guns, recommendations are being made to allow for this new weapon type for fall turkey hunting, rabbits and hares.

